

Falkowski Stanek, contacted my congressional office some time ago to inquire as to the status of these awards, in that she, on her mother's behalf and with the assistance of her siblings, wished to create a legacy honoring her late father that could be passed down for generations to come.

Through the hard work of the staff in our Buffalo District Office, and particularly the help of one of our Senior Field Representatives, William J. Greeley, we were able to verify Mr. Falkowski's entitlement to these awards and, on Thursday December 1, 2005, I had the supreme honor of presenting these medals, ribbons and other commendations to Mr. Falkowski's widow and members of his family.

Mr. Speaker, while Frank Falkowski never received his due recognition during his life, I am honored to have been given the opportunity to help give him his deserved recognition today, albeit posthumously. Frank Falkowski was always proud to be an American and was proud of his service to his country, but according to his family, he never spoke much of his experiences in World War II, perhaps owing to the pain those memories brought forth. Frank Falkowski served this Nation proudly and honorably, and his life after the service, where he settled in Western New York, married, worked and raised a family, are a positive example to us all. Fifteen years ago, the Falkowski family prayed that Frank would rest in peace; today, we pray that he knows that his country has, at long last, paid him the full honor to which he so richly deserves.

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PEACE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of two important resolutions: H. Res. 438, urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and H. Res. 535, honoring the life, legacy and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. At a time when the death of Yasser Arafat and Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip have created the renewed possibility for a safer, more secure, and more peaceful future for Israel, these two resolutions highlight both the challenges and the hope of the current moment.

While Israel has been the victim of unfair United Nations resolutions for much longer than I have been in Congress, the people of Israel should know that the United States will always stand side by side with them in the struggle against hatred and anti-Semitism. We join with them in the fight against terrorism, such as the recent suicide bombing in Netanya which killed 5 Israelis and wounded over 50 others.

At the same time, the memory of Yitzhak Rabin reminds us all of the courage that the Israeli people and their leaders—from David Ben-Gurion to Ariel Sharon—have shown when peace appears possible. I commend the House for making these two important statements and join my colleagues in the hope that Israel will one day live out Prime Minister Rabin's dream, "No more blood—no more tears."

SUPPORT FOR THREE RESOLUTIONS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, under the assumption that the House would have adjourned for the year by Tuesday, December 6, I accepted a very important speaking engagement for that evening in Massachusetts. The event was the installation of a constituent, David Wluka, as President for the year of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, an important organization with which I have worked closely on the issue of housing, which is one of those that is most important to me in my role on the Committee on Financial Services. My presence at this event had been advertised by the Realtors, and so when suspension votes were scheduled for Tuesday night, I made this one of those rare occasions when I missed votes in order to carry out a responsibility in my district. All three of the votes taken were unanimous, so my absence obviously had no impact on the outcome. But I did want to make sure that my strong support for all three of those resolutions was noted. This is particularly true with H. Res. 438, which urged UN member states to cease their one-sided and unfair condemnations of Israel. The lack of balance in the UN with regard to the Middle East peace process has in fact been an obstacle to the success of that process, by increasing the fears of many in Israel that they will be unfairly treated. As a strong supporter of the ongoing peace process in the Middle East, I believe this resolution was an important one and I hope that the members of the UN will heed it.

Similarly, the resolution honoring the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is another important affirmation of the great value we place on the peace process. Those who murdered this great man sought to murder the process of peace, and it is important for us to make it clear that they did not succeed in that latter effort, although they tragically did succeed in killing one of the great leaders of our time. Yitzhak Rabin's courageous efforts for peace, grounded in the heroic efforts he made during his lifetime to advance Israel's security, deserve not simply this commendation, but serious efforts to bring to fruition what he worked so hard to achieve.

Finally, it is entirely appropriate that our colleague, the gentleman from California, Mr. Lantos, lead the House in recognizing the Fiftieth Anniversary of the extraordinarily brave, through tragic, effort by the Hungarian people to win their freedom from the brutal dictatorship imposed on them by the Soviet Union. While this ended badly with the deaths of so many brave people, it was an affirmation that the human drive for freedom cannot easily be snuffed out, and served as an extraordinary example for the later, successful efforts to break the tyrannical Soviet empire.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 273, to recognize the courage, perseverance, and demand for justice displayed 50 years ago in the Montgomery bus boycott.

On Thursday, December 1, 1955, Ms. Rosa Parks, who recently passed away at the age of 92 and whom this body has honored, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, public bus. With fifteen year old Claudette Colvin arrested for the same infraction just a few months earlier in Montgomery, the NAACP and the Women's Political Council finally had the opportunity to shed light on their treatment as second-class citizens.

Following discussions amongst civic and church leaders, including the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Jo Ann Robinson, who was the head of the Women's Political Council, and E.D. Nixon, who was the Montgomery official for the NAACP, the people of Montgomery decided to take a simple action that would end up crippling the city for almost a year. The Montgomery bus boycott, which began on Monday, December 5, 1955, called a nation's attention to a legacy of racism, inexplicable discrimination, and equal treatment under the law.

Bringing Montgomery's segregated bus lines to their knees, boycotters did everything from organize a system of carpools to match black taxi cab rates to those of the city's now-empty buses. The crowded rush hour sidewalks served as a testament to that single act of courage and bravery which inspired the modern civil rights movement and went on to revolutionize our country.

As the months passed on with Montgomery's buses continuing to receive few, if any, passengers, leaders of the bus boycott movement soon became targets of racist bigotry—Rev. Abernathy's and Rev. King's houses were firebombed, and boycotters were physically attacked. Yet their movement continued.

It is this great will and determination that was rewarded, on November 13, 1956, when the United States Supreme Court upheld a Federal district court ruling declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional. These events laid the groundwork for future landmark achievements, such as the passing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. And fifty years later, we are still inspired and invigorated by the strength and determination of the people of Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents and the people of this great nation honor the ideals of justice and equality set forth by the Montgomery bus boycott every time we stand up for what is right. This is the legacy of that event, and the legacy we should continue to honor. As we look to the future, we should be inspired by their example and continue to fight for social justice and equality for all people. Just as the devoted boycotters did, we should all remain committed to erasing the inequities that still exist in our society and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF MORTGAGE AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today Representatives MAXINE WATERS (D-CA), CHARLIE MELANCON (D-LA) and I introduced the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Reauthorization Act to give victims of Hurricane Katrina the same housing aid awarded to New Yorkers in the aftermath of 9/11.

Once fully implemented, the Mortgage and Rental Assistance (MRA) program was one of the most useful FEMA programs following 9/11. This grant program provided direct mortgage or rent payments for individuals still living in their home, but were experiencing difficulties in making payments. When FEMA administered the program in New York, recipients were required to have a loss of income of at least 25 percent to qualify. Rent or mortgage payments lasted up to eighteen months. This program was particularly useful for people who lost their job as a result of 9/11 and could not afford to pay their rent or mortgage.

Unfortunately, 9/11 was the last disaster for which this program was available. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 eliminated this program because it was considered too costly and difficult to administer (the enactment date was 18 months and the attacks of 9/11 occurred after this act was signed into law, but before enactment). The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 merged temporary housing assistance with grants to individuals and families. This merge now limits the assistance FEMA is allowed to provide victims of disasters.

On December 1, 2005, the three-month mortgage suspension on mortgages for victims of Katrina expired and many individuals are now faced with mortgage bills they are unable to afford. This week the Bush Administration announced a limited loan program to assist victims having difficulty paying their mortgage.

This program was instrumental in stabilizing New York's economy after 9/11, it is beyond me why we are now refusing to get the people of the Gulf Coast the very same aid we got in New York. The offering of loans to pay off loans unfairly straddle Katrina victims with more debt. When Congress debated converting reconstruction aid to Iraq from grants to loans, the Administration threatened a veto. Why should reconstruction of the Gulf Coast be any different?

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 13TH AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 196

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House considered the recognition of the anniversary of the 13th amendment, H.

Res. 196. On the 31st day of January, 1865, the 13th amendment was proposed to the State legislatures by the 38th Congress and ratified by 27 of the 36 State legislatures on December 6, 1865. January 31, 1865, the day the House passed the proposal, the gallery which had just opened to African-Americans erupted into cheers and Representatives on the House floor were visibly emotional, crying and hugging each other. Slavery had ended and the deep roots of the modern civil rights movement were planted.

Although the abolition of slavery did not mean equality for all Americans, the amendment initiated a civil rights movement that continues to this day.

Through the ratification of this landmark legislation, our government initiated the process to work towards uniting the American people. Their actions also inspired the eventual passage of the 14th amendment, which granted equal protection under the law, the 15th amendment, which gave African-American males the right to vote, and the 19th amendment which granted universal suffrage to all women.

Despite these monumental changes in our Nation's constitution, African-Americans and other minorities continue to experience social and economical injustices. I submit to you Mr. Speaker that we still have a long way to go to rid our Nation of the vestiges of slavery and discrimination. By passing this legislation, we are renewing a national commitment towards eradicating racial and ethnic inequalities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed four votes on December 7, 2005. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 615, tabling appeal of the ruling of the chair; "no" on rollcall vote No. 616, the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 617, the Tax Revision Act; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 618, the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005.

TAX REVISION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 4388—Tax Revision Act of 2005.

This bill has many important components that assist the America in being competitive in a global economy, but I specifically want to talk about the provisions in this legislation that concern the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and all the hard work that one of our colleagues, LUIS FORTUÑO has done on this bill.

H.R. 4388 extends the benefits of the manufacturing deduction enacted with the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 to manufacturing operations conducted in Puerto Rico.

This is an issue of the utmost importance to the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico, and being such, was a top legislative priority for Mr. FORTUÑO.

Under current law, U.S. corporations that operate in Puerto Rico are subject to full U.S. tax on the income from those operations in the same manner as income from operations in the mainland.

Thus, a U.S. corporation's income from manufacturing activities in Puerto Rico is subject to immediate tax in the United States, as well as being subject to tax in Puerto Rico. This difference in tax treatment under current law means that the tax burden of operating in Puerto Rico is significantly higher than in the United States.

This means, Mr. Speaker, that you pay a higher tax of 35 percent on income on a product manufactured in Puerto Rico versus a lower tax of 32 percent on that same product manufactured in the States.

The higher tax burden creates a clear disincentive for U.S. companies to manufacture in Puerto Rico. It distorts manufacturing location choices, putting Puerto Rico at a disadvantage relative to the mainland in terms of attracting and retaining investment.

This bill eliminates the disadvantage for manufacturing in Puerto Rico created under current law. It provides U.S. companies with comparable tax treatment for their manufacturing activities in Puerto Rico and their manufacturing activities conducted in the States.

Last year, we enacted the American Jobs Creation Act to enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the global marketplace.

At the time, we stated that "a reduced tax burden on domestic manufacturers will improve the cash flow of domestic manufacturers and make investments in domestic manufacturing facilities more attractive. Such investment will assist in the creation and preservation of U.S. manufacturing jobs."

I agree with this wholeheartedly. Extending equal treatment to manufacturing conducted in Puerto Rico will further enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the global marketplace. It will assist in the creation and preservation of the local manufacturing jobs that are so vitally important to the Puerto Rican economy.

This bill does not provide special benefit to Puerto Rico or to companies operating in Puerto Rico. It simply levels the playing field by treating manufacturing in Puerto Rico the same as manufacturing in the mainland, leaving companies free to choose where to locate based on business considerations.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me thank Mr. FORTUÑO for his hard work on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support JACK MURTHA but I do not support this fraudulent Republican Resolution.